

Reimbursable Special Education High Cost Expenditures

The Special Education High Cost Aid program is intended to assist eligible applicants with meeting the high costs of educating students with disabilities. The aid is based on the prior year's expenses and is funded with a combination of state categorical aid and funds awarded through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Expenses are calculated on a per student basis and include costs directly related to the education of a student with high cost special education needs. Eligible applicants include:

- Public school districts;
- Cooperative Educational Service Agencies (CESAs);
- County Children with Disabilities Education Boards (CDEBs); and
- Charter schools authorized under ss.118.40 (2r) Wis. Stats

To reflect the average special education cost of services provided to most students with disabilities, a \$10,000 line item will be automatically added to each student eligible to receive high cost aid. This \$10,000 base cost will cover pro-rated costs such as teachers, supplies, and therapists (occupational, physical and speech/language). The LEAs will select items not covered by the \$10,000 cost, such as one-one-one paraprofessionals and educational interpreters, from a drop down menu in the high cost software. The additional items selected by the LEA will represent costs that are unique to those individual students with disabilities that incur considerable special education and related service costs to the LEA.

A student meets the definition of high cost if it is determined that the amount of direct special education service costs generated by the student is more than \$30,000 after special education categorical aid amounts are deducted. This must not include any administrative or overhead cost.

Special education high cost aid reimbursement is set at 90% of qualifying eligible costs. Due to the volume of claims that are submitted to the Department, the final eligible costs are reimbursed at a prorated amount based on availability of funds.

The following pages identify costs that are eligible for special education high cost reimbursement.

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Cost Item	Special Requirements or Additional Information	Funding Source
AIDE - ATTENDANT CARE: Salaries and fringe benefits. See also “Aide - Non-Attendant Care”	<p>Attendant care services include a range of human assistance provided to students with a disability and/or chronic condition. The assistance enables them to accomplish tasks in the educational setting that they would normally do for themselves if they did not have a disability or chronic condition. Assistance may be in the form of hands-on assistance (i.e., actually performing an attendant care task for the student) or cuing the student so that he or she performs the task by himself or herself.</p> <p>Attendant Care Aides provide the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eating (including food purchasing and preparation). • Routine personal hygiene (e.g., hand washing, brushing teeth, combing hair, grooming, and showering). • Dressing. • Toileting. • Transferring. • Routine care of personal assistive devices (e.g., eyeglasses, wheelchairs, communication boards). • Supervision and cuing of activities. <p>Aides must be employees of an LEA, CESA or CDEB. Contracted service costs for privately employed attendant care aides are not reimbursable.</p> <p>Costs must be IEP-driven.</p> <p>Aides must be appropriately licensed and work under the supervision of appropriately licensed staff and perform duties consistent with the role of an aide, while not assuming the role of a health professional.</p>	State
AIDE - NON-ATTENDANT CARE: Salaries and fringe benefits. See also “Aides - Attendant Care”	<p>Aides must be employees of an LEA, CESA or CDEB. Contracted service costs for privately employed special education aides are not reimbursable.</p> <p>Aides must be appropriately licensed and work under the supervision of an appropriately licensed special education teacher and perform duties consistent with the role of an aide, while not assuming the role of a teacher.</p> <p>Costs must be IEP-driven and services must be provided directly to the student.</p>	IDEA
AIDE – TRANSPORTATION: Salaries and fringe benefits.	<p>Transportation aides must be employees of an LEA, CESA or CDEB. Contracted service costs for privately employed transportation aides must be coded to contracted transportation services.</p> <p>Costs must be IEP-driven and services must be provided directly to the student.</p> <p>If the transportation aide is not riding in the vehicle to specifically address the needs of the child qualifying for high cost, then the transportation aide’s costs are not eligible for reimbursement.</p>	IDEA
AUTISM DIRECT EDUCATIONAL SERVICES: Contracted costs.	<p>Staff must be appropriately licensed to provide special education instruction and related services.</p>	IDEA

Cost Item	Special Requirements or Additional Information	Funding Source
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IEP TEAMS: Salaries and fringe of team members, costs associated with meeting expenses, stipends, travel.	These are not considered direct services, thus are not eligible for reimbursement.	
BUS DRIVER: Salaries and fringe benefits.	<p>The salary and fringe benefits of a bus driver are reimbursable ONLY for the time the driver transports the student(s) qualifying for high cost.</p> <p>The need for special transportation must be identified in the student's IEP.</p> <p>If the bus driver transports the child qualifying as high cost and other children (not qualifying as high cost) at the same time, then the bus driver's costs are not eligible for reimbursement.</p>	IDEA
EDUCATIONAL INTERPRETERS: Salaries and fringe benefits. Contracted services provided by a private vendor are not eligible for reimbursement. See also "Foreign Language Interpreters for Students"	Educational interpreters must be employees of an LEA, CESA, or CDEB. Contracted services for private practice educational interpreters are not eligible for reimbursement.	IDEA
EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR (ESY): Personnel, supplies, equipment, transportation, and any other services identified in the student's IEP. See also "Summer School"	The need for ESY must be documented in the student's IEP.	IDEA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EVALUATIONS: Personnel, supplies, or contracted services.	These are not considered direct services, thus are not eligible for reimbursement.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOREIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS FOR STUDENTS: Salaries and fringe benefits or contracted costs.	Providing interpreters for students who have limited English proficiency is a responsibility of the LEA and not considered an excess cost of special education.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IEP TEAM COORDINATORS: Salaries and fringe benefits.	These are not considered direct services, thus are not eligible for reimbursement.	
JOB COACHES: A job coach works directly with a student with a disability in a work site to help the student learn the specific requirements of the job; learn work-related activities and requirements; and learn appropriate work-related behaviors.	<p>Students who have an IEP may participate in vocational experiences if it is determined appropriate for them at their IEP meeting.</p> <p>A job coach must work under the direction and supervision of a LEA, CESA, or CDEB special education staff. Job coaches may be provided through contract with an individual, agency, organization, or other entity.</p>	IDEA

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PARAPROFESSIONALS: Salaries and fringe benefits. Contracted services provided by a private vendor are not eligible for reimbursement.	Paraprofessionals must be employees of an LEA, CESA or CDEB. Contracted service costs for privately employed special education paraprofessionals are not reimbursable. Paraprofessionals must be appropriately licensed and work under the supervision of an appropriately licensed special education teacher and perform duties consistent with the role of a paraprofessional, while not assuming the role of a teacher. Costs must be IEP-driven and services must be provided directly to the student.	IDEA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SECRETARIAL STAFF: Salaries and fringe benefits.	These are not considered direct services, thus are not eligible for reimbursement.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SMART BOARDS	Costs of SMART boards are not eligible for reimbursement.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STAFF DEVELOPMENT: Costs associated with registration fees, travel, conference expenses, and providers.	These are not considered direct services, thus are not eligible for reimbursement.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STUDENT CONSULTATION TEAMS: Salaries and fringe of team members, meeting expenses, stipends, travel.	These are not considered direct services, thus are not eligible for reimbursement.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STUDENT EVALUATIONS: Personnel, supplies, or contracted services.	These are not considered direct services, thus are not eligible for reimbursement.	
TRANSITION – EMPLOYMENT SKILLS: Costs associated with work experiences, job coaches, acquisition of employment skills.	LEAs may be reimbursed for contracts with agencies to facilitate the acquisition of employment skills for students with disabilities typically ages 18-21. The transition services must be identified in student's IEP. The costs also may be incurred when school is not in session. Contracted transition services must be provided under the supervision of the LEA. Transition agency staff may not assume the role of special education teachers, who must prescribe instruction and evaluate the results of instruction.	IDEA
TRANSPORTATION COSTS - SPECIAL EDUCATION: Costs incurred by the LEA for transporting student qualifying for high cost.	LEAs may be reimbursed for special education transportation costs such as vehicle insurance, mileage, driver and transportation aide costs. Transportation services must be addressed in the student's IEP to be eligible for reimbursement. If these costs are also incurred by children who do not meet the definition of high cost, then the costs are not eligible for reimbursement. Example: If a student who qualifies for high cost rides in a vehicle with other students who do not qualify as high cost, then the insurance for that vehicle is not eligible for reimbursement. If an aide rides in the same vehicle, and is assigned to the student qualifying for high cost, then the aide's costs are eligible for reimbursement even if there are other students also riding in the vehicle.	IDEA

Cost Item	Special Requirements or Additional Information	Funding Source
<p>TUITION – PRIVATE AGENCY: Tuition for placement by an LEA to provide a student with FAPE.</p>	<p>Generally, tuition is eligible for reimbursement if placement was made by an LEA to provide a child with FAPE. However, only the excess cost of providing special education services is allowed. The teachers must hold proper DPI licenses. The services must be provided consistent with an IEP; at no cost to parents; and under the supervision of the local educational agency.</p> <p>Tuition charged for placement in a Wisconsin public school or an out-of-state public school is eligible for reimbursement.</p>	<p>IDEA</p>